

Message Text

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SUBJ: IRAQI DEMAND FOR AMERICAN FOOD GRAINS AND RELATED TECHNOLOGY

REF: JAN 17 PITCHER TO WORIE OFF INFORMAL

1. SUMMARY: PRELIMINARY FORECAST IS FOR UNUSUALLY GOOD WINTER WHEAT AND BARLEY CROPS. IRAQ TO TAKE DELIVERY OF 140,000 TONS US RICE IN 1975; NO WHEAT IN 1975 BUT POSSIBLY 100,000 TONS IN 1976. GRAIN BOARD WISHES TO CONTACT MORE U S SUPPLIERS OF GOOD GRAINS AND SEEKS INFO ON HOW TO FOLLOW PRICE MOVEMENTS. IBRD CALL EXPECTED SHORTLY FOR TENERS TO SUPPLY 15 SILOS WITH 560,000 TONS GRAIN STORAGE CAPACITY. END SUMMARY.

2. NEWLY ARRIVED COMATT MAKDE INTRODUCTORY CALL FEB 3 ON ASST DG OF GRAIN BOARD SALAH AL SHEIKLY AND GHANIM JIBRY, DIR OF STATISTICS, TO DEVELOP INFO ON (A) WINTER GRAIN CROP FORECASTS (AS REQ REFLETTER) AND (B) DEMAND FOR US FOODGRAINS.

3. GRAIN BOARD'S PRELIMINARY INFO IS THAT OUTLOOK FOR PRESENT WINTER WHEAT AND BARLEY CROPS UNUSUALLY GOOD BECAUSE UNCLASSIFIED

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ACREAGE PLANTED IS APPROX AS PLANNED AND RAIN HAS BEEN

HEAVIER THAN USUAL. HOWEVER, MEANINGFUL DETAILS ON ACREAGE, YIELD, ETC. MAY ONLY BE RELEASED BY PALNNING MIN AND WILL BE

REPORTED LATER.

4. GRAIN BOARD, WHICH PURCHASES FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION ONLY, CURRENTLY BUYING FOR IMMEDIATE MARKET NEEDS. IS NOT RPT NOT STOCK-PILING (HAS VERY LIMITED STORAGE CAPACITY). IN 1974 SIGNED CONTRACTS FOR 20,00 TONS US RICE (FINAL DELIVERY NOW BEING MADE BY TWO VESSELS CURRENTLY IN BASRA). ORIGINAL CONTRACT CALLED FOR PERUVIAN RICE BUT SUPPLIER SWITCHED TO US NUMBER FIVE. GRAIN BOARD HAS RECENTLY SIGNED CONTRACTS FOR DELIVERY IN 1975 OF 100,000 TONS US NUMBER 3 AND 40,000 TONS US NUMBER 2 RICE AT PRICES RANGING BETWEEN 503 AND 527 DOLS PER METRIC TON. BOARD FORESEES NO RTP NO NEED SIGN NEW CONTRACTS FOR WHEAT DELIVERY IN 1975 BUT MIGHT PURCHASE UP TO 100,000 TONS FOR DELIVERY 1976.

5. BOARD VISUALIZES NO RPT NO IMMEDIATE MARKET FOR OTHER FOOD GRAINS BUT REQUESTS US SUPPLIERS OF ALL KINDS OF FOODGRAINS (ESPECIALLY CORN) IDENTIFY THEMSELVES AND SUPPLY CATALOGS. BOARD FEARS IT HAS BEEN INTRODUCED ONLY TO COMPARATIVE HANDFUL US GRAIN SUPPLIERS AND REQUESTS USDA FURNISH EXTENSIVE LIST REPUTABLE US FIRMS.

BOARD ALSO REQUESTS SUPPLY ON REGULAR BASIS OF ANY USDA PUBLICATIONS ABOUT WORLD GRAIN TRADE, IRAQ AND MID EAST AGRICULTURE GENERALLY. SPECIFICALLY ASKED FOR TEN COPIES EACH OF CHARLES TREAKLE'S STUDIES TITLED QUOTE THE AGRICULTURAL ECONOMY OF IRAQ UNQUOTE (ERS-125) AND QUOTE LAND REFORM IN IRAQ UNQTE AS WELL AS DAN SHEPPARD'S QUOTE SAUDI ARABIA, BAHRAIN AND KUWAIT FOOD STUDY UNQTE.

6. BOARD SEEKS INFO ON HOW BEST USE ITS TELEX (ADDDRESS 225 SILOAT, IRAQ) TO FOLLOW GRAIN PRICES ON NEW YORK AND CHICAGO GRAIN EXCHANGES. COMMENT: BELIEVE MERRILL LYNCH OR OTHER U S FIRMS BEIRUT MAY BE ABLE ASSIST.

7. BOARD NOTED IBRD HAS COMPLETED PRELIMINARY STUDIES FOR 15 SILOS TO PROVIDE TOTAL OF 560,000 TONS STORAGE CAPACITY AND SAID INTERNATIONAL CALL FOR TENDERS CAN BE EXPECTED BEFORE FEB 1.

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